

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 925

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the handling of or caring for a pit bull breed of dog by certain minors; providing penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 822, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 822.009 and 822.010 to read as follows:

Sec. 822.009. PIT BULL BREED OF DOG: ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN MINORS. (a) In this section and Section 822.010, "pit bull breed of dog" means any Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, American Pit Bull Terrier, or any mixed breed of dog that exhibits distinguishing characteristics that substantially conform to the American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club standards for those breeds.

(b) A minor who is 15 years of age or younger may not handle or care for a pit bull breed of dog without adult supervision.

(c) The owner of a pit bull breed of dog who allows a minor who is 15 years of age or younger to handle or care for the dog without adult supervision is liable for damages for death or bodily injury to a person that occurs while the dog is handled or cared for by the minor.

Sec. 822.010. OFFENSE. (a) The owner of a pit bull breed of dog commits an offense if the owner allows a minor who is 15 years of age or younger to handle or care for the dog without adult

1 supervision.

2 (b) An offense under Subsection (a) is a Class C
3 misdemeanor.

4 SECTION 2. Section 822.009, Health and Safety Code, as
5 added by this Act, applies only to damages that occur on or after
6 the effective date of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.